Use your telephone to call a family member and tell them how much your love them. Surprise the kids by ‘texting’ them a message of blessing.

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**Constructing a beautiful Christian Home**

**Dated Material**
Please deliver by May 20, 2017

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID**
Van Nuys, CA
Building a Christian Home

For those members of our church who lived in the San Fernando Valley in the 1940-50’s - they can tell you what it was like. New homes were being constructed. In 1940, there were 4,147 people residing in Reseda. 1950, the population had grown to over 16,000.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain”
-Psalm 127:1

CALLED TO LOVE: FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIMES

FAMILY NIGHT. Set aside a regular time for sharing family fun activities together. You could do the same activity each time (play board games, cook special treats, volunteer as a family in service to others, learn about people who live different lives from yours). Or each family night could be planned by a different family member, with the activity based on agreed-upon criteria.

LOVING OTHERS. Identify people in your community who are in need of knowing God’s love (someone who has just lost a family member, someone struggling in school, someone new to your community, someone who can no longer drive a car, someone who is sick). Each month, make cards together to send to those who need to know God’s love; or, as a family, visit someone from your church or your community who is alone and needs to know there are those who care about him or her.

REFRIGERATOR REMINDERS. Post on the refrigerator a Scripture passage, a line from a hymn or song, an inspirational thought, or a brief prayer. Change the reminder each Saturday. Place this at a level that all in the family can see when they open the refrigerator door.

SCRIPTURE/PRAYER/THOUGHT-FOR-THE-DAY CARDS. Buy a spiral notebook of index cards; write a favorite Scripture verse, short prayer, or thought for the day about love on each card. Illustrate each card. Each day, turn over one of the cards to reveal the Scripture verse, short prayer, or thought for the day to read aloud.
The General Conference of the United Methodist Church has declared the month of May be the Christian Home Month, with emphasis upon family worship in the home, worship and program planning in the congregation, and prayer on behalf of families.

The theme for 2017 is “Families Called to Love”

*Over the past months, through the tumult of the presidential election in The United States and the establishment of a new administration, children, youth, and adults have at times felt excluded, concerned with the deep differences dividing the country, angry at those with whom they disagree, caught up in name-calling and loss of civility. At times, it may seem that we have forgotten how to cast the wide net of love that Jesus challenges us to cast upon the world.*

umcdiscipleship.org

“In the early 1950s, the Valley’s population reached 400,000. The average new Valley home, in 1949, cost $9,000. By 1955, that same house could be resold for nearly $15,000. Even at that price, though, a household income was about $6,000 a year, making Valley incomes higher than the national average. By 1960, the average market value of a Valley home reached $18,850.” *(wikipedia)*

It’s Starts with the Architect

Did you read the verse on the opposite page?

**Psalm 127:1** - “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”

Grandparents, parents, fathers, mothers, teens, and kids ... to make a home “Christian” MUST begin with God. The foundation of our homes must be built by Him.

Your marriage. Your family. Your future. Everything!

“God, my life is yours. Take my family and build it for your glory.”
Next ... we have to follow God’s blueprints.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him.
You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your table.
Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the Lord.

Psalm 128:1-4

Let’s reflect on this Scripture:

1. How is Psalm 128:1-14 like a blueprint?

2. What instructions are being given by God to the builders?

3. What tends to happen when people build without following a blueprint? Why?

4. How would you describe what it means to “walk in obedience” and to “fear the Lord” in your family?

Go online and visit thebibleproject.com
Watch the videos and learn more about the Bible. With Psalm 128, especially take a look at their “wisdom series” videos for helpful insight.